

I have never been a  
loyal Democrat,  
Republican, or  
anything else  
(except American).  
You can imagine,  
then, how any loyal  
American would be  
absolutely outraged  
at Sinclair  
Broadcasting's  
decision to abuse  
the public -- I  
repeat, PUBLIC --  
airwaves by airing  
blatant propaganda  
in an attempt to  
influence the  
presidential  
election.

As you well know,  
the role of the  
media in a  
democratic state is  
to ensure the free  
distribution of  
information so that  
citizens can  
rationally evaluate  
issues of pressing  
importance to them  
and to the nation.  
The Founders of this  
nation knew it (just  
look up "press" in  
the index to any  
good edition of the  
Federalist Papers  
and read what they  
have to say). When  
distribution of  
"information" is  
reduced to low-grade  
manipulation of the  
public -- via the  
very airwaves held  
in private trust for  
that public -- the  
very foundation of  
democracy as we know  
it is shaken to the  
core.

The response of  
Sinclair  
Broadcasting has  
thus far been to  
"let the public  
decide." The  
"public" makes its  
decisions based upon  
the very information  
it's given via  
groups like

Sinclair, and the circular logic makes a mockery of our political process. If "publics" weren't subject to the sort of blatantly biased manipulation, the U.S. government -- in any administration -- wouldn't spend the amount of money it does on public relations groups around the world to change peoples' minds in definite and predictable directions. James Madison knew it. I know it. Sinclair Broadcasting knows it. And, most pressingly, \*you\* know it.

If this were not the case -- if we simply followed the political path blazed for us by tyrants from Nero to Stalin -- you would not be reading this message. Your entire existence as a watchdog would not exist: your job would consist entirely of the sort of low-grade censorship of lurid excess for which you've recently become famous (cf. Janet Jackson, Howard Stern, et al.).

I implore you -- for the sake of a fading and gasping democracy that used to be the envy of liberty-loving people around the world -- take immediate action to stop Sinclair Broadcasting from further turning the U.S.A. into the United States of Orwell.

Thank you.

Matthew G. Stratton